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# Petrogenesis of Mediterranean lamproites and associated rocks: The role of overprinted metasomatic events in the post-collisional lithospheric upper mantle

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**Abstract:** High-MgO lamproite and lamproite-like (i.e. lamprophyric) ultrapotassic rocks are recurrent in the Mediterranean and surrounding regions. They are associated in space and time with ultrapotassic shoshonites and high-K calc-alkaline rocks. This magmatism is linked with the geodynamic evolution of the westernmost sector of the Alpine–Himalayan collisional margin, which followed the closure of the Tethys Ocean. Subduction-related lamproites, lamprophyres, shoshonites and high-K calc-alkaline suites were emplaced in the Mediterranean region in the form of shallow level intrusions (e.g. plugs, dykes and laccoliths) and small volume lava flows, with very subordinate pyroclastic rocks, starting from the Oligocene, in the Western Alps (northern Italy), through the Late Miocene in Corsica (southern France) and in Murcia-Almería (southeastern Spain), to the Plio-Pleistocene in Southern Tuscany and Northern Latium (central Italy), in the Balkan peninsula (Serbia and Macedonia) and in the Western Anatolia (Turkey). The ultrapotassic rocks are mostly lamprophyric, but olivine latitic lavas with a clear lamproitic affinity are also found, as well as dacitic to trachytic differentiated products. Lamproite-like rocks range from slightly silica under-saturated to silica over-saturated composition, have relatively low  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , CaO and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  contents, resulting in plagioclase-free parageneses, and consist of abundant K-feldspar, phlogopite, diopsidic clinopyroxene and highly forsteritic olivine. Leucite is generally absent, and it is rarely found only in the groundmasses of Spanish lamproites. Mediterranean lamproites and associated rocks share an extreme enrichment in many incompatible trace elements and depletion in High Field Strength Elements and high, and positively correlated Th/La and Sm/La ratios. They have radiogenic Sr and unradiogenic Nd isotope compositions, high  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  over  $^{206}\text{Pb}$  and high time-integrated  $^{232}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$ . Their composition requires an originally depleted lithospheric mantle source metasomatized by at least two different agents: (1) a high Th/La and Sm/La (i.e. SALATHO) component deriving from lawsonite-bearing, ancient crustal domains likely hosted in mélanges formed during the diachronous collision of the northward drifting continental slivers from Gondwana; (2) a K-rich component derived from a recent subduction and recycling of siliciclastic sediments. These metasomatic melts produced a lithospheric mantle source characterized by network of felsic and phlogopite-rich veins, respectively. Geothermal readjustment during post-collisional events induced progressive melting of the different types of veins and the surrounding peridotite generating the entire compositional spectrum of the observed magmas. In this complex scenario, orogenic Mediterranean lamproites represent rocks that characterize areas that were affected by multiple Wilson cycles, as observed in the Alpine–Himalayan Realm.

**Supplementary material:** All the data used in the figures are available at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.fig-share.c.5414418>

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Lamproites are rare and exotic ultrapotassic igneous rocks ( $K_2O > 3$  wt.%, with  $K_2O/Na_2O > 2$ ; [Foley \*et al.\* 1987](#)) showing peculiar geochemical and isotopic compositions. They have mafic to ultramafic character ( $Mg\# = 100 \text{ Mg}/(\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}) > 60$ ), and high compatible trace element contents ([Mitchell and Bergman 1991](#)). These characteristics combined with the occurrence of euhedral to skeletal, highly forsteritic, liquidus olivine, support that lamproite magmas were in equilibrium with their mantle source in spite of their extraordinary enrichment in incompatible trace elements ([Mitchell and Bergman 1991](#); [Conticelli \*et al.\* 1992, 2007, 2009](#); [Prelević \*et al.\* 2005, 2012, 2015](#); [Davies \*et al.\* 2006](#); [Prelević and Foley 2007](#); [Tommasini \*et al.\* 2011](#); [Ammannati \*et al.\* 2016](#); [Mitchell 2020](#)).

The extreme enrichment in  $K_2O$  and incompatible trace elements of lamproites was shown to be not dependent upon crustal contamination during magma ascent to surface, which was instead demonstrated to be negligible ([Conticelli 1998](#); [Murphy \*et al.\* 2002](#); [Prelević \*et al.\* 2004](#)). Hence, it is thought that such an enrichment is a primary feature of their mantle source ([Peccerillo \*et al.\* 1988](#); [Conticelli and Peccerillo 1992](#); [Conticelli \*et al.\* 2002, 2009, 2015](#); [Davies \*et al.\* 2006](#); [Peccerillo and Martinotti 2006](#); [Duggen \*et al.\* 2008](#); [Prelević \*et al.\* 2008](#); [Avanzinelli \*et al.\* 2009](#); [Krmíček \*et al.\* 2016, 2020](#)).

Occurrences of lamproites are described in both anorogenic (i.e. within-plate) and orogenic, post-collisional tectonic settings, rarely within ancient cratons, more often in areas of thickened crust at cratonic margins, which experienced one or several episodes of compression or post-collisional collapse ([Mitchell and Bergman 1991](#); [Mitchell 2020](#)).

Within-plate and post-collisional lamproites show a distinct distribution of radiogenic Sr and Nd, with the former characterized by comparably low Sr and Nd isotope ratios, and the latter by high radiogenic Sr and unradiogenic Nd isotopes (e.g. [McCulloch \*et al.\* 1983](#); [Nelson \*et al.\* 1986](#); [Nelson 1989, 1992](#); [Irving and Kuehner 1998](#); [Turner \*et al.\* 1999](#); [Francalanci \*et al.\* 2000](#); [Conticelli \*et al.\* 2007, 2009](#); [Prelević \*et al.\* 2008, 2010](#)). Both within-plate and post-collisional lamproites are characterized by high  $\delta^{18}O$  (6–13‰; [Taylor \*et al.\* 1984](#); [Barnekow \*et al.\* 1998](#); [Benito \*et al.\* 1999](#); [Barnekow 2000](#); [Mirnejad and Bell 2006](#)), a characteristic that, for post-orogenic ones, was argued to be related with recycled crustal-derived heavy oxygen within the mantle ([Dallai \*et al.\* 2019](#); [Avanzinelli \*et al.\* 2020](#)).

To our knowledge, recent (<30 Ma) orogenic lamproites are mainly concentrated in Europe and in the Tibet region, along the Alpine–Himalayan belt. Lamproitic magmatism is relatively common in the Mediterranean area ([Fig. 1](#)) and it is considered to be the consequence of the post-collisional events, which took place in the orogenic belt originated from

the Mesozoic and Paleogene convergence between Africa and Eurasia ([Tommasini \*et al.\* 2011](#)). In such a post-collisional setting lamproites are frequently intimately associated with calc-alkaline lamprophyric, shoshonitic and high-K calc-alkaline rocks ([Conticelli \*et al.\* 1992, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015](#); [Prelević \*et al.\* 2004, 2005, 2012, 2015](#); [Peccerillo and Martinotti 2006](#); [Prelević and Foley 2007](#); [Owen 2008](#); [Avanzinelli \*et al.\* 2009](#)).

In this paper we describe the geochemical and isotopic data available on the orogenic group of Mediterranean lamproites ([Fig. 1](#)), including the occurrences from Murcia (SW Spain), Western Alps (NW Italy), Corsica (France), Tuscany (central Italy), Balkan Peninsula (Serbia–Macedonia) and Western Anatolia (Turkey), and their associated shoshonitic and calc-alkaline rocks. The discussion will be framed on the origin of the subduction-related signature of their mantle source and on the nature of the metasomatic agents and recycled crustal materials. The geochemical and isotopic data are supplemented with chemical data on rock-forming minerals, as well as data on mantle xenoliths possibly representing proxies for the sources of such peculiar magmas. All together the genesis of lamproitic magmas is discussed in the frame of the geodynamic evolution of the region.

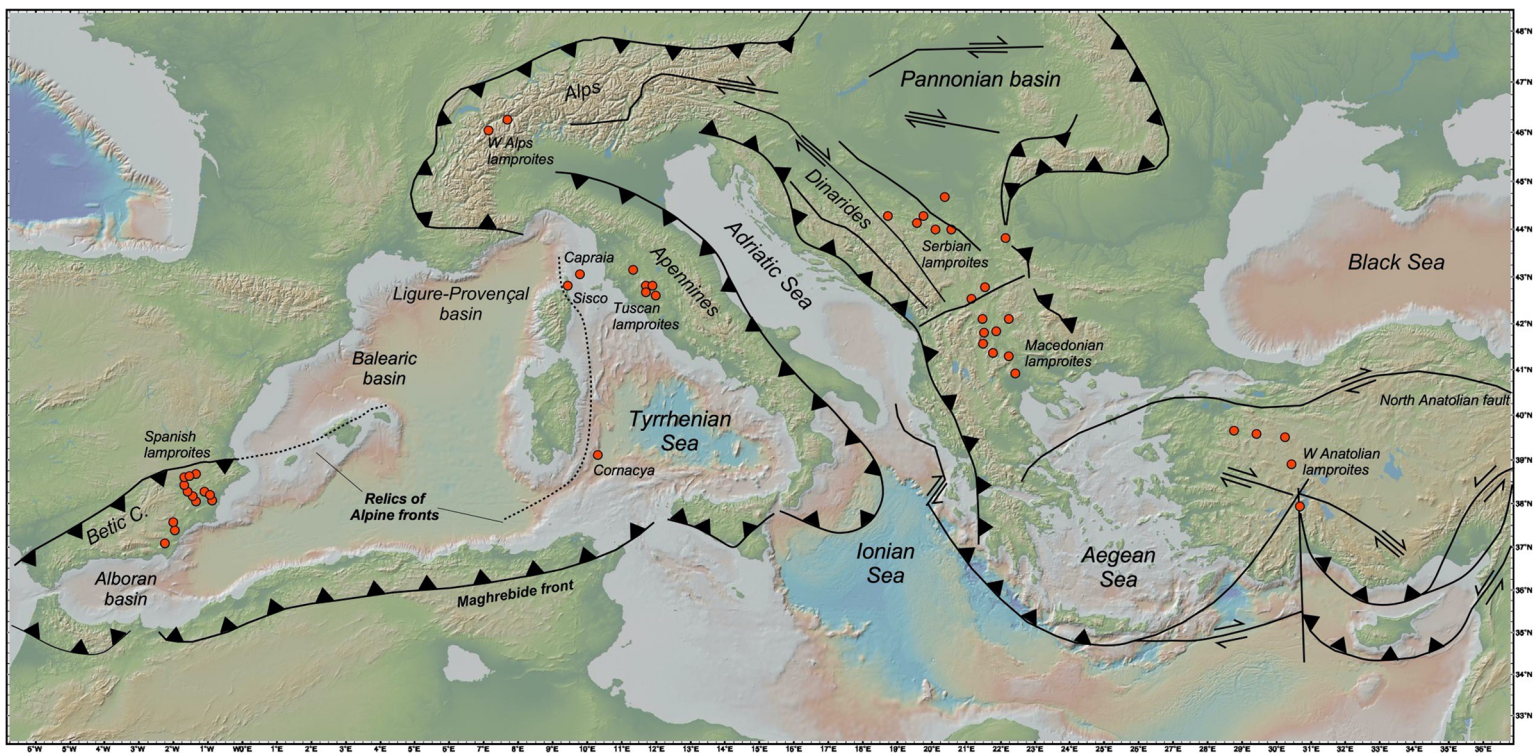
## Lamproites, lamprophyres and associated rocks

Due to their exotic rock-forming minerals lamproites were classified with a large variety of now obscure names such as wyomingite, orendite, madupite, jumillite, cancalite, fortunite, verite, cedricite, fitzroyite, etc. ([De Yarza 1895](#); [Cross 1897](#); [Osann 1906](#); [Wade and Prider 1940](#)) but we prefer to use the general term lamproite according to the classification suggested by [Foley \*et al.\* \(1987\)](#).

Lamproites are Mg-rich alkaline ultrapotassic volcanic to hypo-abyssal rocks ([Foley and Venturelli 1989](#); [Mitchell 2020](#)). They are characterized by relatively low  $Al_2O_3$ ,  $FeO_{Tot}$ ,  $CaO$  and  $Na_2O$  counterbalanced by extremely high  $MgO$ , and extremely variable silica contents, the latter ranging from basic to intermediate compositions. Lamproites are generally silica-saturated, plagioclase-free rocks, consisting of highly forsteritic olivine, chromian spinel, Al-poor clinopyroxene, K-richterite, sanidine, picroilmenite and apatite. Leucite is rarely found in minor silica-undersaturated lamproites.

Lamprophyre is an important category of hypo-abyssal rocks ([Rock 1987](#)), whose name is based on mineralogical criteria, such as the type of occurring feldspar and possible amphibole; minette, spessartite and kersantite are the rock names according to the mineralogical classification. They are potassic to

Genesis of Mediterranean lamproites



**Fig. 1.** Simplified tectonic map of the Mediterranean area showing the distribution of lamproites (red dots). Major faults are indicated by black lines. The present Apennine–Maghrebian compression front and the Alpine collision zone are also indicated (base GeoMapApp, <http://www.geomapapp.com>).



ultrapotassic with higher alumina and lime with respect to lamproites, but in some cases they are chemically very similar to lamproitic to ultrapotassic shoshonitic rocks (Foley *et al.* 1987).

Shoshonite is a group of igneous rocks ranging from mildly enriched in potassium to ultrapotassic, with variable silica saturation. The rock types range from potassic trachybasalt (shoshonitic basalt) to trachyte, passing through shoshonite *sensu stricto* and latite. These rocks have variable enrichment in K<sub>2</sub>O in the most primitive terms.

High-K calc-alkaline and calc-alkaline rocks are defined on the basis of K<sub>2</sub>O contents with respect to silica (Wheller *et al.* 1987). They match the chemical and mineralogical parameters provided by Arculus (2003). They are sub-alkaline with terms ranging from basalts to rhyolites, passing through basaltic andesite, andesite and dacite. The prefix high-K is added when needed.

## Geodynamic framework of the Mediterranean region

The Circum-Mediterranean region experienced a long-term evolution including oceanic subduction and continental collision processes related to the convergence between Africa–Arabia and Eurasia plates (McKenzie 1970; Dewey *et al.* 1989; Faccenna *et al.* 2004). Multiple convergences and collisions among Africa–Arabia and Eurasia plates caused the diachronous closure of the Paleo-Tethys and Neo-Tethys oceans, and the progressive accretion of peri-Gondwana blocks to the southern margin of the Eurasian plate (Sengör 1979; Allen and Armstrong 2008; Zanchetta *et al.* 2013). Subduction and collisional processes caused the formation of different orogenic belts, including the Late Triassic–early Jurassic Cimmerian Orogeny in Turkey and Iran (Stocklin 1974; Zanchi *et al.* 2009), and the almost continuous Alpine orogenic belt that extends from the Gibraltar Arc, which is the westernmost segment of the Alpine–Mediterranean Belt, to western Anatolia in Turkey (Fig. 1). Interestingly, within the whole Alpine–Mediterranean Belt, vestiges of older (Paleozoic) orogenic cycles are well represented and testify the polycyclic geodynamic evolution of the area (Von Raumer *et al.* 2002).

During this long-lasting process, the tectonic evolution of the convergent margins was mainly controlled by the geometry and nature of the convergent plates, which were characterized by the presence of continental promontories, such as the Arabian plate and the Adriatic promontory of Africa which underwent an early collisional stage, interleaved with areas where subduction of the oceanic lithosphere is still going on (e.g. Calabrian, Aegean and Cyprus arcs). This heterogeneity in the

subduction system was responsible for the complex evolution of the upper plate system, which was characterized by the presence of arcuate orogenic systems, back-arc basins (Alboran, Liguro-Provençal, Tyrrhenian, Aegean Sea basins) and kinematically independent crustal blocks (e.g. Corsica–Sardinia, Anatolia), which developed as a consequence of roll-back in the subducting slab and lateral extrusion of pieces of continental lithosphere (McKenzie 1970; Horvath and Berckheimer 1982; Dewey *et al.* 1989). This complexity is also responsible for the large variability in metasomatic processes and magmatism occurred in the Mediterranean region.

Mediterranean lamproites were formed since the Oligocene (Western Alps, NW Vardar zone), to the Miocene (Corsica, Murcia–Almería, Western Anatolia), the Mio-Pliocene (Serbia, southern Vardar zone) and the Plio-Pleistocene (Tuscany) (Conticelli *et al.* 1992; Benito *et al.* 1999; Prelević *et al.* 2004, 2005, 2008; Kuiper *et al.* 2006; Pérez-Valera *et al.* 2013; and references reported in these papers) (Fig. 1).

## Western Mediterranean

The western Mediterranean area was exposed to multiple orogenic episodes that left inheritance in the subsequent, more recent geodynamic evolution (Ribeiro *et al.* 2007). A large number of palaeotectonic reconstructions proposed that during the Oligocene (about 30 Ma) the boundary between Africa and Eurasian plates in the western Mediterranean area was characterized by the presence of a convergent margin with almost continuous northward subduction of the African plate from Gibraltar to the Apennine chain (Faccenna *et al.* 2004) (Fig. 1). The subduction of the African plate evolved with a backward motion of the subduction trench, enhanced by the fragmentation of the subducting slab which brought about the progressive formation of the Calabrian Arc and Gibraltar. The former is associated with the opening of the Liguro-Provençal (30–16 Ma) and Tyrrhenian (12–1 Ma) back arc basins, the latter is associated to the opening of the Alboran back arc basin (Lower Miocene) (Fig. 1) (Lonergan and White 1997; Faccenna *et al.* 2004, 2014; Mattei *et al.* 2006; Cifelli *et al.* 2008). During the Late Miocene, the Gibraltar region experienced drastic modification of the tectonic regime, then the whole Betic-Rif and the Alboran Sea Basin underwent a complex pattern of compressional and strike-slip tectonics which, in some cases, inverted previous extensional structures (Watts *et al.* 1993; Comas *et al.* 1999). Volcanism accompanied and post-dated Neogene extension, with arc-tholeiitic, calc-alkaline, shoshonitic and ultrapotassic volcanism scattered across the eastern sector of Alboran Sea and Betic-Rif chain (Venturelli *et al.* 1984a; Duggen *et al.* 2005, 2008; Mattei *et al.* 2014).

## Genesis of Mediterranean lamproites

The Miocene-to-Present formation of the Apennine chain was coeval with the fast opening of the Liguro-Provençal (first) and the Tyrrhenian back arc (later) basins following the southeastward retreat of a NW–west dipping Ionian/Adriatic slab (Malinverno and Ryan 1986; Royden *et al.* 1987; Faccenna *et al.* 2004; Cifelli *et al.* 2007). Linked to this geodynamic evolution are the lamproite and associated volcanic rocks of Corsica and the northern Tyrrhenian Sea, which migrated regularly with time, from Miocene to Pleistocene following the Adriatic slab roll back, to Tuscany, on the Italian Peninsula (Faccenna *et al.* 2014).

### Western Alps

The western Alps are a continuation of the same convergent system but with an opposite polarity of the subducted plate, the direction of which reversed in the Ligurian area (Pfiffner 2021). They also originated from Africa and Eurasia convergence, from the late Cretaceous onward, causing the closure of the Ligurian–Piedmont and Valais oceans and the subsequent collision between the Adriatic promontory and the Eurasian plate (Dercourt *et al.* 1986; Stampfli *et al.* 2001). Collision was accommodated by crustal stacking and subduction of continental material as attested by the presence of ultra-high pressure rocks in the Dora Maira massif (Chopin 1984; Schreyer *et al.* 1987). Rare hypabyssal bodies and volcanic rocks were emplaced shortly after the climax of the Alpine orogenesis (Dal Piaz *et al.* 1979; Venturelli *et al.* 1984b; Callegari *et al.* 2004). It appears clear that this ‘alpine’ geodynamic phase was influenced by pre-alpine lineaments that left their inheritance on palaeogeographic domains (Festa *et al.* 2020).

### Dinarides

The Dinarides orogenic system represents the northern part of a continuous belt extending from the eastern Alps to southern Greece, including the Albanides and Hellenides orogens (Fig. 1). The Dinaride geodynamic evolution records a long-lasting history of orogenic deformation at least from the Paleozoic (Ilic *et al.* 2005), which continued during the Early–Middle Jurassic and is still going on. The geodynamics of the internal Dinarides was controlled by the presence of oceanic basins (including the Alpine Tethys and Neo-Tethys) opened during the break-up of Pangea (Stampfli *et al.* 2001) with episodes of intra-oceanic subduction represented in local ophiolites (Bortolotti *et al.* 2013). The Neo-Tethys opened during Triassic and Early to Mid-Jurassic times, whilst the Alpine Tethys started to open during the Mid-Jurassic and was contemporaneous with partial closure of the western Neo-Tethys and the obduction

of the Eastern and Western Vardar Ophiolitic Units on top of the Adriatic passive margin (Schmid *et al.* 2004). The external part of the Dinarides is formed by shallow marine and basinal sedimentary units deriving from the deformation of the Adriatic passive margin, which was progressively involved in the Dinaride orogenic system as a consequence of the eastward subduction of the Adriatic margin. This orogenic deformation is still active along the coastal sector of the Dinaride and Albanide orogenic systems, as testified by the strong seismicity of the area.

### Western Anatolia

Western Anatolia consists of different continental units, derived from Laurentia and Gondwana margins, originally separated by the Paleo-Tethys and Neo-Tethys oceans and eventually amalgamated during the Alpine Orogeny (Robertson *et al.* 2012). The Pontide units, which outcrop in the northern sector of the Anatolia region, show a Laurasian affinity and were deformed by the Variscan and Cimmerian orogenies, showing analogies with the pre-Alpine geological history of many European zones (Okay *et al.* 2006). The Paleo-Tethys and Neo-Tethys sutures separate the Pontides units from the Anatolide–Tauride realms, showing Gondwana affinities and lacking evidence of Variscan and Cimmerian orogenesis (Okay 2008). The closure of these Mesozoic oceans was followed by the progressive subduction, along the southern margin of Anatolia, of the Ionian lithosphere. As a consequence, the entire Western Anatolia region today is located in the upper plate of the Aegean subduction system, where the Ionian oceanic lithosphere is subducting northeastward underneath the southern margin of the Eurasian plate. This active subducting slab is limited to the NE by the Kefalonia fault, which separates the Adriatic continental lithosphere, to the north, from the oceanic Ionian lithosphere to the south. Slab roll-back during the last 30–35 Ma has been responsible for extensional back-arc opening in the Aegean Sea and of the progressive curvature of the Aegean Arc (Kissel and Laj 1988), which caused the exhumation of high pressure/low temperature metamorphic cores (Jolivet and Brun 2010).

## Occurrence and petrologic, geochemical and isotopic characteristics of Mediterranean lamproites

Mediterranean lamproites occur in a narrow belt (Fig. 1) composed of small-volume hypo-abyssal (e.g. plugs, laccoliths, lopoliths and dykes) and lava flows from the Murcia–Almería region (south-eastern Spain), through the Italian and French Alpine

chain (Western Alps and Corsica, respectively), and the northern edge of the Apennine chain (Tuscany), to the Dinarides (Serbia–Macedonia) and Taurides (Western Anatolia). The Mediterranean region represents the westernmost segment of the major collisional system that led to the formation of the Alpine–Himalayan Orogeny. Overall, the entire set of Alpine–Himalayan lamproites were referred to as Tethyan Realm Lamproites (i.e. Tommasini *et al.* 2011).

Murcia–Almería is the westernmost and largest magmatic province among those including Tethyan Realm Lamproites (Fig. 1). Lamproite-like ultrapotassic rocks (Murcia) are associated to shoshonitic to high-K calc-alkaline magmatism (Cabo de Gata, Mazàron). Two-pyroxene calc-alkaline rocks, found exclusively at Capo de Gata (Almería), high-K calc-alkaline and shoshonites, found along the Murcia–Almería coast (Mazàron) are among the oldest volcanic products of the region (13.4–6.8 Ma), whilst Murcia lamproites were emplaced during the last phases of the volcanic activity (8.1–6.4 Ma) (Turner *et al.* 1999; Duggen *et al.* 2005; Kuiper *et al.* 2006; Pérez-Valera *et al.* 2013; Mattei *et al.* 2014). Murcia lamproites show the largest compositional variability of any region of lamproites in the whole Mediterranean (Fig. 2). Among the associated volcanic rocks shoshonites are rare, most of them straddling the boundary between shoshonitic and high-K calc-alkaline fields in the  $K_2O$  v.  $SiO_2$  diagram (Fig. 2). However, some shoshonites plot along a trend at very high  $K_2O$  contents, connecting with lamproites. Intermediate to strongly differentiated calc-alkaline rocks are abundantly found in Cabo de Gata volcanic field (Mattei *et al.* 2014).

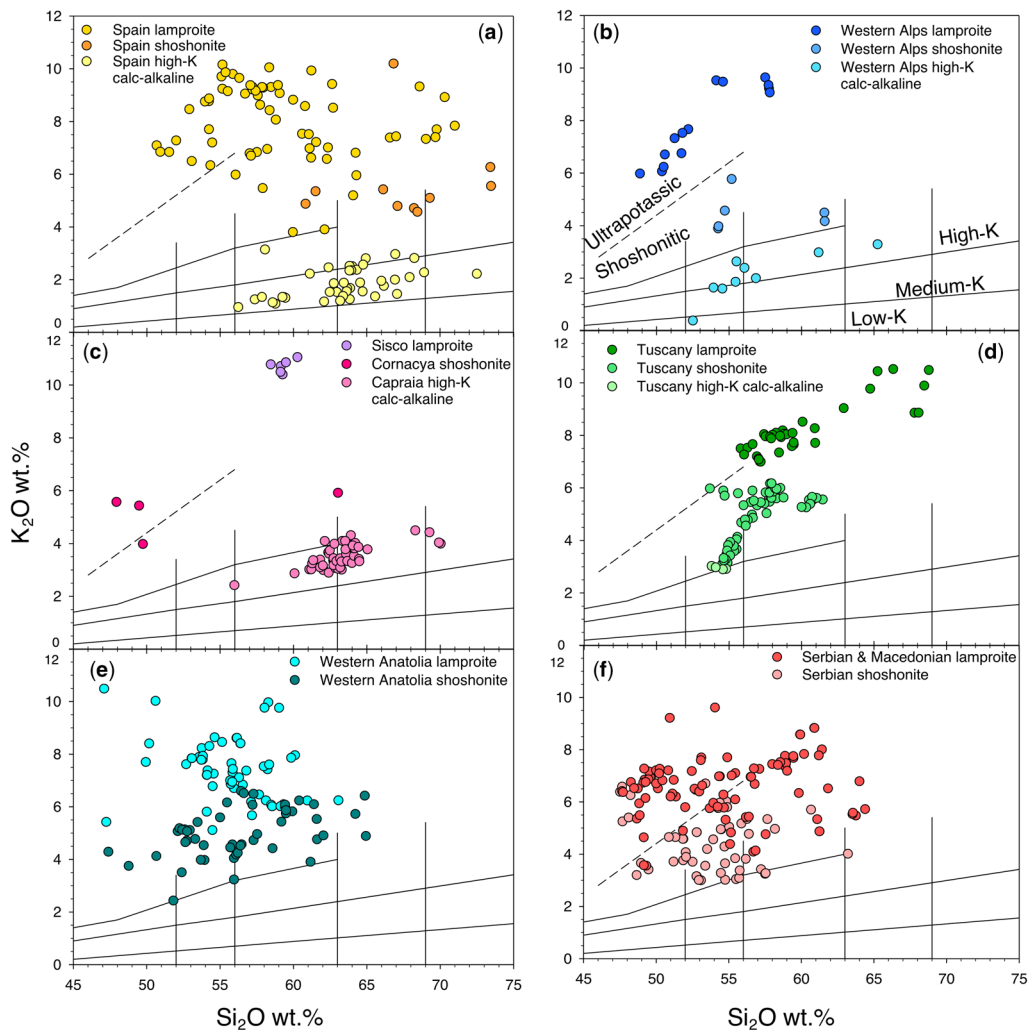
The Western Alps post-collisional lamproite and related shoshonitic to high-K calc-alkaline igneous rocks are found within a restricted area in the internal zone of the northwestern Alps (Venturelli *et al.* 1984b; Peccerillo and Martinotti 2006; Owen 2008; Conticelli *et al.* 2009; Casalini 2018). The age of this magmatism was found to be within the range 34–30 Ma (Krummenacher and Evernden 1960; Carraro and Ferrara 1978; Hunziker 1974), which is coeval with the peak of post-collisional magmatism of the entire Alps (Von Blanckenburg *et al.* 1998). Lamproitic-like plagioclase-free rocks were classified by Owen (2008) as minette due to their micaceous appearance; groundmasses have intersertal textures with phlogopite, clinopyroxene and K-feldspar, accompanied by minor altered olivine and riebeckite–arfvedsonite amphibole. Shoshonitic to high-K calc-alkaline plagioclase-bearing rocks (kersantite to spessartite) are found associated in space and time with ultrapotassic rocks. Strictly speaking, these rocks should be classified as lamprophyres on a mineralogical basis (Owen 2008), but we

prefer to use the term lamproite on the basis of the chemical classification suggested by Foley *et al.* (1987). In the  $SiO_2$ – $K_2O$  diagram, Western Alp lamproites plot close to the lamproitic samples from Corsica and Murcia–Almería (Fig. 2) overlapping at the low-silica end those from Corsica (Fig. 2).

Miocene lamproitic, shoshonitic and high-K calc-alkaline igneous rocks association is found along the eastern margin of the Sardinia–Corsica micro-plate (Fig. 1). Lamproites are restricted to the northeastern portion of the Corsica Island, in the form of a sill intruded into the Alpine terranes belonging to the ‘Schistes Lustrés’ (Wagner and Velde 1986; Peccerillo *et al.* 1988; Conticelli *et al.* 2009); shoshonitic to high-K calc-alkaline sub-volcanic to volcanic rocks are found a few kilometres offshore from Sardinia and Corsica in the locality of Sisco, at Sarcya seamount (Cornacya) and Capraia Island, respectively (Masclé *et al.* 2001; Chelazzi *et al.* 2006; Conticelli *et al.* 2007; Gasparon *et al.* 2009; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009). The Sisco lamproites have an age of 14.6 Ma (Civetta *et al.* 1978), whilst the shoshonitic samples from Cornacya were erupted at 12.6 Ma (Masclé *et al.* 2001). The Capraia high-K calc-alkaline rocks were erupted between 7.8 and 7.2 Ma, with a small cinder cone at Punta dello Zenobito erupted at 4.8 Ma (Gasparon *et al.* 2009). The Sisco lamproite is a leucite- and plagioclase-free ultrapotassic rock with intersertal texture and a parageneses made of phlogopite, clinopyroxene, olivine, sanidine and K-rich feldspar associated to subordinate abundance of chromian spinel, ilmenite, pseudobrookite and priderite (Wagner and Velde 1986). Shoshonitic (Cornacya) and high-K calc-alkaline rocks (Capraia) range from shoshonites, to olivine latites, trachytes, high-K andesites, trachy-dacites and rhyolites and they are characterized by the occurrence of modal plagioclase, with sanidine and hornblende restricted to the most differentiated rocks (Masclé *et al.* 2001; Gagnevin *et al.* 2007; Conticelli *et al.* 2015). The Sisco lamproites show a peralkaline index  $>1$ , and the highest  $K_2O$  and the lowest  $Al_2O_3$ , respectively, among the whole Central Mediterranean lamproites (Prelević *et al.* 2008; Conticelli *et al.* 2009).

The Plio-Pleistocene Tuscan lamproite-like and associated rocks are found in Central Italy (Fig. 1) and they are emplaced as (1) phlogopite-bearing shallow level intrusive bodies (i.e. Orciatice and Montecatini Val di Cecina) that are 4.2 and 4.1 Ma in age (Borsi *et al.* 1967; Conticelli *et al.* 1992), and (2) olivine-bearing lava flows (i.e. Torre Alfina and Monte Cimino) erupted between 0.9 and 0.8 Ma (Nicoletti 1969; Nicoletti *et al.* 1981; Borghetti *et al.* 1981), with shoshonites to high-K calc-alkaline rocks with variable ages between 5.8 Ma (Elba Island dyke) and 1.1 Ma (Barberi *et al.* 1971; Pasquaré *et al.* 1983; D’Orazio *et al.*

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**Fig. 2.**  $K_2O$  v.  $SiO_2$  classification diagram (Ewart 1982). Dashed line represents the divide of Wheller *et al.* (1987) between shoshonite and leucite but we prefer to use the term ultrapotassic since leucite is absent in the Mediterranean orogenic lamproites. For each location (a–f) lamproite rocks are compared to associated shoshonitic and high-K calc-alkaline rocks. The data are taken from the literature and the complete dataset is available as Supplementary Material (Table S1). (a) Spain: Venturelli *et al.* 1984a; Nelson *et al.* 1986; Benito *et al.* 1999; Turner *et al.* 1999; Prelević *et al.* 2008; Conticelli *et al.* 2009; Pérez-Valera *et al.* 2013; Mattei *et al.* 2014. (b) Western Alps: Owen 2008; Prelević *et al.* 2008; Conticelli *et al.* 2009; Casalini 2018. (c) Corsica, Cornacya and Capraia: Peccerillo *et al.* 1988; Mascle *et al.* 2001; Chelazzi *et al.* 2006; Conticelli *et al.* 2009, author's unpublished data. (d) Tuscany: Peccerillo *et al.* 1988; Conticelli 1998; Conticelli *et al.* 1992, 2011, 2013; Perini *et al.* 2003; Prelević *et al.* 2008; Casalini *et al.* 2019. (e) Serbia and Macedonia: Cvetković *et al.* 2004a; Prelević *et al.* 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010; Altherr *et al.* 2004. (f) Western Anatolia: Akal 2008; Ersoy and Helvacı 2007; Francalanci *et al.* 2000; Prelević *et al.* 2012, 2015.

1991; Conticelli *et al.* 2001). Plagioclase-free lamproite-like rocks of Tuscany (Italy) have a peralkaline index  $<1$ , but their mineralogy is typical of lamproite-like rocks (Wagner and Velde 1986; Conticelli *et al.* 1992; Conticelli 1998). Olivine is

commonly the only phenocryst phase and usually encloses Al-poor and Cr-rich euhedral spinel. Phlogopite and Al-poor clinopyroxene are the most abundant phases in the groundmass; sanidine is ubiquitous. Lamproite-like rocks from Tuscany show



lower K<sub>2</sub>O at comparable SiO<sub>2</sub> contents with respect to similar Mediterranean rocks (Fig. 2). Shoshonites are abundant showing the most mafic compositions among the Mediterranean shoshonites (Perini *et al.* 2003; Conticelli *et al.* 2011, 2013).

In the Balkan region, lamproite magmatism recurs in two areas (Fig. 1) and is diachronous in time (Altherr *et al.* 2004; Prelević *et al.* 2005, 2007, 2008). In the northern part of the province (Serbia), a broad spectrum of ultrapotassic rocks with lamproitic affinity (i.e. lamproites and minette) was emplaced around 35 Ma in several localities of the Vardar ophiolitic suture zone. After about 15 Myr magmatism shifted southward producing plugs and flows with kamafugitic affinity (i.e. olivine leucitite, leucite basanite and ankaratrites; Prelević *et al.* 2005) were emplaced in the southern–western part of the Serbian Dinarides (Prelević *et al.* 2005, 2007). The second Balkan sub-province occurs in Macedonia and in a few southern Serbia localities. Here, more than 20 distinct lamproitic volcanic centres with Pliocene Age (e.g. 6.6–1.5 Ma; Terzić and Svešnjikova 1991; Cvetković *et al.* 2004a; Yanev *et al.* 2008) occur as cinder cones, lava flows and plugs. Despite the significant age difference, the youngest lamproites cannot be distinguished from the older Balkan lamproitic rocks in terms of mineralogy or geochemistry (Prelević *et al.* 2007). In between the two lamproitic magmatic events, minor high-K calc-alkaline and abundant shoshonitic rocks were also emplaced (Fig. 2).

In western Anatolia Tertiary lamproitic rocks were produced along the Hellenic and Cyprus arc (Fig. 1), at the eastern end of the Aegean volcanic arc, resulting from the northward subduction of the African Plate beneath the Aegean (Doglioni *et al.* 2002; Innocenti *et al.* 2005). Here, volcanism started with calc-alkaline products in the Eocene, partially coeval with Aegean volcanism, and continued during the Miocene with shoshonitic to lamproitic products (e.g. Prelević *et al.* 2007, 2012). Another occurrence of ultrapotassic volcanics is located slightly to the south in the north–south trending Kırka-Afyon-Isparta volcanic province (Francalanci *et al.* 2000; Akal 2008). This province was emplaced in three steps that exhibit southward younging from Kırka (21–17 Ma) to Afyon (14–8 Ma) and Isparta (4.7–4.0 Ma). These rocks have ultrapotassic to potassic character (i.e. shoshonitic; Fig. 2). Among lamproites, the ultrapotassic terms, Kırka and Afyon show a clear orogenic signature whilst Isparta displays a within-plate signature (Francalanci *et al.* 2000; Akal 2008).

### Trace element distribution

Mediterranean lamproites usually have high contents of compatible trace elements (e.g. Ni > 200 ppm and Cr > 500 ppm) coupled with significant

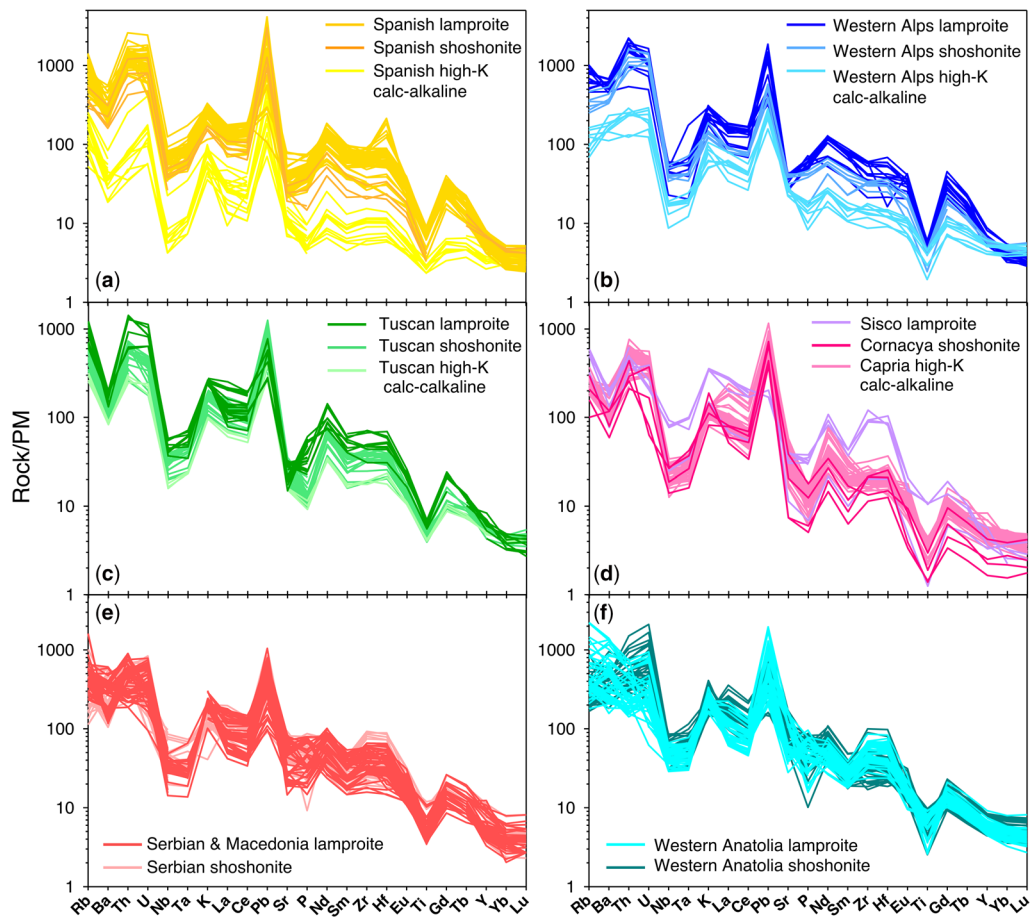
enrichments in incompatible elements and rare earth elements (REEs), with some large ion lithophile element (LILE, e.g. Rb, Cs) concentrations up to four orders of magnitude higher than those of the Primitive Mantle (Fig. 3). In addition, they display a notable depletion in high field strength elements (HFSEs, e.g. Nb, Ta), resulting in high LILE/HFSE ratios, which, along with Pb peaks, are clearly indicative of a subduction-related signature.

Despite their general crustal-like patterns, K and highly incompatible elements (e.g. Rb, Ba, Th and U) in orogenic lamproites have on average different distributions with respect to the present-day upper crust (Rudnick and Gao 2003) and Global Subducting Sediment (GLOSS, Plank and Langmuir 1998). Indeed, a distinctive signature of Mediterranean and, more in general, of Tethyan Realm Lamproites is their relative depletion in Ba and Sr with respect to Rb and Th (Tommasini *et al.* 2011). Ratios between the aforementioned elements (Fig. 4) also help in distinguishing orogenic from anorogenic lamproites. Indeed, orogenic lamproites show higher Rb/Sr coupled with lower Ba/Rb than anorogenic ones (Fig. 4a), suggesting an important role for bulk melting of phlogopite and amphibole, respectively, in their mantle sources.

The extreme enrichment of Th (up to >200 ppm) in all the orogenic, Tethyan Realm Lamproites results in high Th/U, well beyond the Th/U ratio of c. 4 of the crust and most mantle-derived igneous rocks (Fig. 4b) (Plank and Langmuir 1998; Rudnick and Gao 2003). The high Th content entails one of the most striking features of these rocks, that is the positive correlation between Th/La and Sm/La (Fig. 4d). These key ratios are instead not correlated with K<sub>2</sub>O (e.g. Fig. 4c).

This characteristic is due, beside the extreme Th content, also to the slightly downward convex light (L) REE patterns (Conticelli *et al.* 1992, 2007, 2009, 2015). The positive correlation between Th/La and Sm/La observed by Tommasini *et al.* (2011), actually represents a sort of paradox when compared to subduction-related magmas worldwide. Indeed, Plank (2005) showed that typical volcanic arc magmas exhibit a negative correlation on Th/La v. Sm/La, arguing for mixing between depleted mantle (at low Th/La and high Sm/La) and subduction-related components (i.e. end-members), the latter derived from melts of recycled sediments characterized by relatively high Th/La (c. 0.5–0.7) and low Sm/La (c. 0.1). The composition of Tethyan Realm Lamproites fall along the trend between the recycled sediment end-member (Plank 2005) and another one at high Th/La and Sm/La (up to 2.2 and 0.4, respectively, see also Fig. 4d), termed SAL-ATHO (high Sm, La and Th; Tommasini *et al.* 2011), which is difficult to explain in terms of notional mantle and crustal reservoirs.

# Genesis of Mediterranean lamproites



**Fig. 3.** Primitive mantle normalized (Sun and McDonough 1989) incompatible trace element patterns of orogenic lamproites and associated shoshonitic and high-K calc-alkaline rocks (a–f). Data source as in Figure 2 (Table S1).

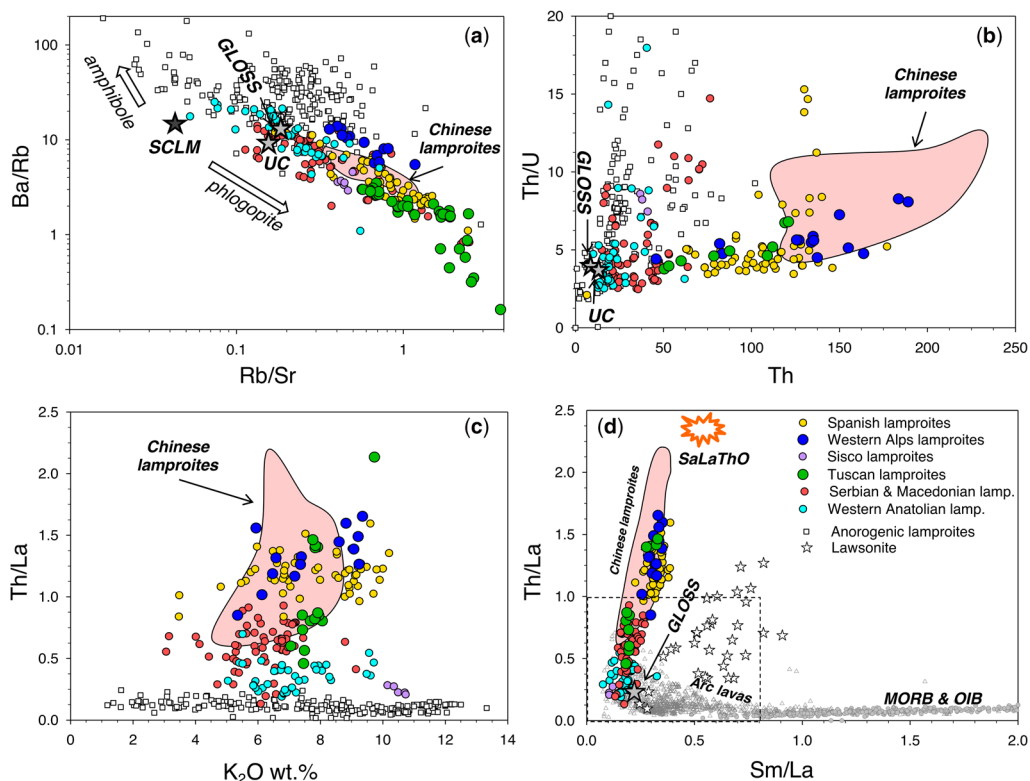
## Radiogenic isotopes

Mediterranean lamproites show extreme variability in their radiogenic isotope composition, much more than anorogenic lamproites and other terrestrial mantle-derived magmas (Conticelli and Peccerillo 1992; Conticelli *et al.* 1992, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2015; Prelević *et al.* 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2015). All lamproites lie in the enriched quadrant of the Sr–Nd isotope diagram (Fig. 5a), with respect to the bulk silicate earth. Orogenic lamproites, including Mediterranean ones, are aligned towards high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and low  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  values, consistent with the involvement of a recycled crustal component with time-integrated high Rb/Sr and low Sm/Nd in the metasomatic agents of their mantle source. Anorogenic lamproites lie instead on a steeper trend towards unradiogenic  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  values and low  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  (Fig. 5a). Among

Mediterranean lamproites a general geographic gradient can also be observed (Fig. 6): eastern Mediterranean lamproites (i.e. Balkan and Anatolian) show relatively lower  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and higher  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  values, respectively, than western Mediterranean ones. Among the western Mediterranean lamproites we observe a progressive westward increase of radiogenic  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and unradiogenic  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  from Italy and Spain (Fig. 6).

Pb isotopes composition of the Mediterranean lamproites (Fig. 5b, c) show high  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  over  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  with respect to the Northern Hemisphere Reference Line (NHRL, Hart 1984), confirming the ubiquitous, although variable, contribution of crustal components recycled in their mantle source.

The data broadly align along a trend starting from the composition of the GLOSS (Plank and Langmuir 1998) towards higher  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  values. The same general array is observed in Figure 5c ( $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$



**Fig. 4.** Incompatible trace element ratios of orogenic and anorogenic lamproites. (a) Rb/Sr v. Ba/Rb (log scale); the arrows indicate the major role of phlogopite and amphibole respectively in the mantle source of orogenic and anorogenic lamproites. (b) Th/U v. Th highlighting the significant enrichment of Th. (c) Th/La v. K<sub>2</sub>O showing the absence of correlation between the Th/La and the potassic character. (d) Th/La v. Sm/La of orogenic lamproites along with that of GLOSS (Plank and Langmuir 1998); arc magmas (Plank 2005); mid-ocean orogenic belt (MORB) (Gale *et al.* 2013) and ocean island basalt (OIB) (Willbold and Stracke 2006); the composition of published lawsonites (Martin *et al.* 2014; Wang *et al.* 2017) is also reported as stars. The dashed line encompasses the range reported in Figure 7. Data source as in Figure 2 (Table S1). Subcontinental Lithospheric Mantle (SCLM) from McDonough 1990; Upper Crust (UC) from Rudnick and Gao 2003; GLOSS from Plank and Langmuir 1998. Chinese lamproites are reported for comparison in a shaded field (Miller *et al.* 1999; Gao *et al.* 2007). Anorogenic lamproites are shown with a unique symbol and include ultrapotassic rocks from Australia (McCulloch *et al.* 1983; Jaques *et al.* 1986; Nelson *et al.* 1986; Fraser *et al.* 1985; Jaques and Foley 2018), Antarctica (Murphy *et al.* 2002), USA (Vollmer *et al.* 1984; Fraser *et al.* 1985; Lambert *et al.* 1995; Mirnejad and Bell 2006; Badal *et al.* 2014) and Russia (Davies *et al.* 2006).

v.  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ) where the investigated rocks display again a general array that departs from the GLOSS and deviates from the NHRL towards higher  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  at low  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  (Fig. 5c). Overall, the Pb isotope composition of Mediterranean lamproites is well distinct from that of anorogenic ones, which plot at significantly less radiogenic values of  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  (Murphy *et al.* 2002; Mirnejad and Bell 2006; Jaques and Foley 2018).

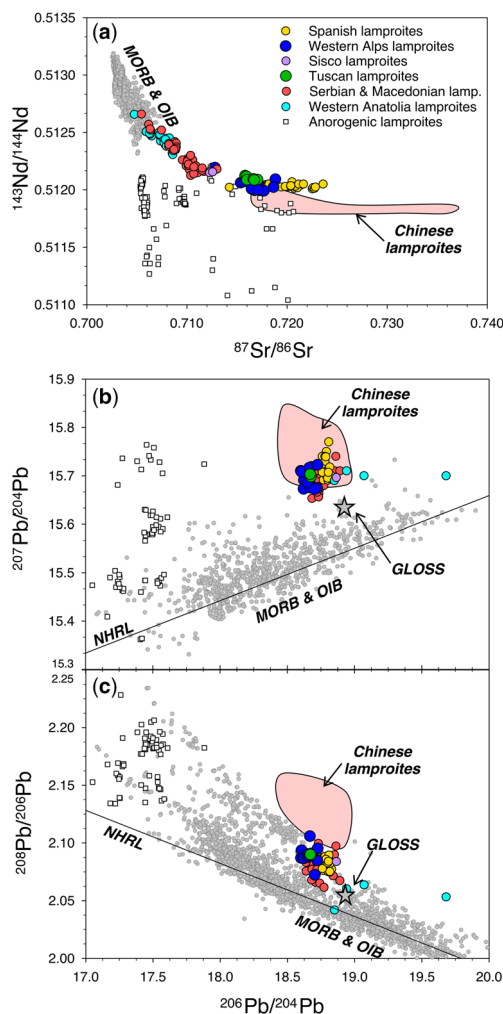
## Discussion

Orogenic lamproites represent exotic and rare mantle-derived magmas believed to originate in

highly metasomatized lithospheric mantle domains (Peccerillo *et al.* 1988; Conticelli *et al.* 1992, 2002, 2007, 2015; Prelević *et al.* 2005, 2008, 2010; Prelević and Foley 2007).

High  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and low  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  isotopic values of mantle-derived basaltic rocks are classically interpreted as due to shallow level crustal contamination. In the case of orogenic lamproites, however, a major role for crustal contamination is excluded by several evidences (Conticelli 1998; Murphy *et al.* 2002; Prelević *et al.* 2004, 2005; Conticelli *et al.* 2007, 2015), such as: (1) high MgO and compatible elements contents, such as Co, Ni and Cr, which are not derived from olivine cumulation; (2)

## Genesis of Mediterranean lamproites



**Fig. 5.** Radiogenic Sr–Nd–Pb isotope composition of orogenic and anorogenic lamproites. (a)  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  v.  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ; (b)  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  v.  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ; (c)  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  v.  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ . Data source as in Figures 2 and 4 (Table S1). Northern Hemisphere Reference Line (NHRL, Hart 1984), MORB and OIB (Stracke *et al.* 2003).

the presence of mafic mineral phases (e.g. high Fo-olivine and clinopyroxene) in equilibrium with their bulk compositions (Conticelli *et al.* 1992, 2007, 2015; Prelević and Foley 2007; Ammannati *et al.* 2016), excluding both cumulus and crustal contamination processes; (3) incompatible trace element contents significantly higher than continental crust composition (e.g. Rudnick and Gao 2003 and references therein). Therefore, the exotic isotopic and geochemical characteristics of Mediterranean

lamproites must be related to processes directly affecting their mantle sources.

Combining mineral chemistry data with bulk rock major and trace elements and Sr–Nd–Pb isotopes previous studies have identified at least three different mantle components (Prelević *et al.* 2005; Conticelli *et al.* 2009; Tommasini *et al.* 2011).

An original ultra-depleted mantle source, with unradiogenic Pb and Sr isotopes and high  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ , is indicated by the low CaO and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  contents of all Mediterranean Lamproites and by the presence of high Fo-olivine with Cr-rich spinel inclusions (e.g. Arai 1994; Conticelli *et al.* 2015 and references therein).

A K-rich component re-fertilizing the depleted mantle source is required to impart the extreme incompatible trace element enrichment along with the crust-like Sr and Nd isotope signature. This metasomatic component is believed to derive from subduction-related sediment melts that permeated and reacted with the depleted peridotitic mantle, producing a orthopyroxene/phlogopite-rich (Fig. 4a) vein network (Foley 1992; Conticelli *et al.* 2015; Prelević and Foley 2007; Ammannati *et al.* 2016).

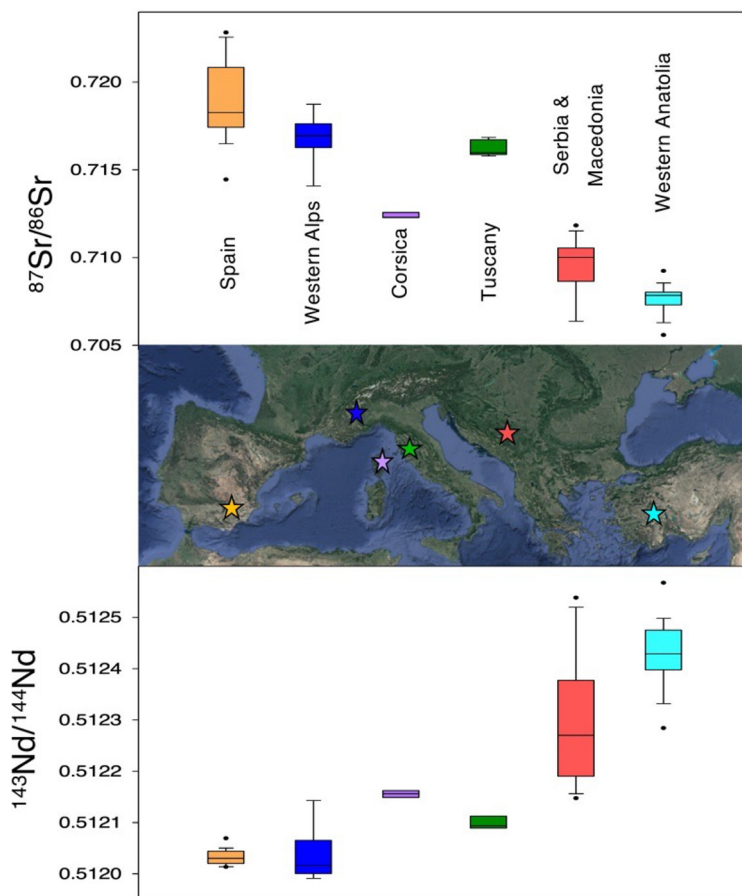
The high Th/La and Sm/La values of many Mediterranean lamproites require the further involvement of the above-mentioned SALATHO component (Tommasini *et al.* 2011) (Fig. 4d). This particular characteristic is not correlated with the K-enrichment (Fig. 4c) and thus not reconcilable with typical subduction-related processes such as the sediment recycling described above.

The evidence for the SALATHO component is not unique to Mediterranean lamproites but represents a specific characteristic of all the orogenic Tethyan Realm Lamproites, recurring also more than 10 000 km to the East in Tibet (Tommasini *et al.* 2011). Among Mediterranean lamproites, those from Spane and Italy display a more marked SALATHO signature, whilst those from other localities such as Corsica, Serbia and Western Anatolia show lower evidence of this component (Fig. 4d), which is likely overprinted by a larger contribution from the more ‘typical’ sediment melt (Prelević *et al.* 2005; Tommasini *et al.* 2011).

### Possible origins for the SALATHO component

As seen above, the SALATHO component represents a specific characteristic of all Tethyan Realm Lamproites which is difficult to explain with the processes typically characterizing subduction-related magmatism (Tommasini *et al.* 2011). The budget of incompatible trace elements in subduction zones and in the related magmatism is largely controlled by the solubility of accessory phases during sediment melting, which also depends on the subducted lithology, that are able to concentrate and selectively





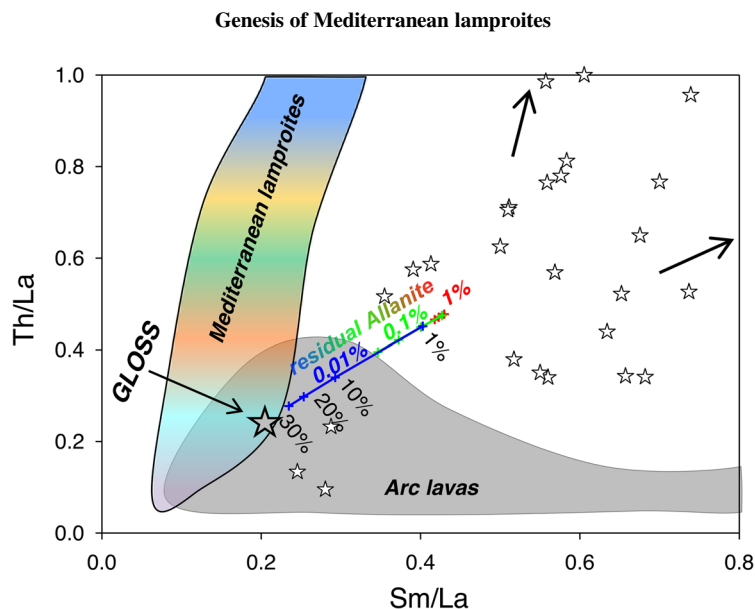
**Fig. 6.** Geographic variation of Sr and Nd isotope ratios in Mediterranean lamproites. Data source as in Figure 2 (Table S1). The boxes include the median value and are delimited by the 25th and the 75th percentiles of each population; the whiskers show the tenth and the 90th percentiles, whilst the dots represent the outliers at the fifth and 95th percentiles.

release specific elements (Klimm *et al.* 2008; Hermann and Rubatto 2009; Skora and Blundy 2010; Martindale *et al.* 2013; Skora *et al.* 2015; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009, 2012, 2018; Casalini *et al.* 2019). In particular, Th and REEs are likely controlled by the possible presence of residual apatite, allanite or monazite (Klimm *et al.* 2008; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009, 2012; Hermann and Rubatto 2009; Skora and Blundy 2010; Martindale *et al.* 2013) during partial melting of subducted sediments, whilst Nb and other HFSEs seems to be controlled by the solubility of rutile (e.g. Klimm *et al.* 2008). During subduction, at the temperature and pressure conditions able to induce partial melting of the sediments, the solubility of the accessory allanite/monazite increases significantly up to reaching the condition of complete removal from the residue, resulting in a massive release of Th, U and REE into the melt. On the

other hand, experimental studies demonstrate that rutile remains oversaturated (i.e. residual; Kessel *et al.* 2005; Klimm *et al.* 2008; Hermann and Rubatto 2009), hence retaining Nb, Ta and Ti.

The presence/absence of such accessory phases during sediment melting exerts a strong control on the composition of sediment-dominated, subduction-related magmas, in particular dictating their variable Th/U (Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009, 2012) and determining their ubiquitous depletion in Nb and Ta (Klimm *et al.* 2008; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009, 2012). In this context, the role of possible accessory phases can be considered also to explain the exotic SALATHO component.

Recently, Soder and Romer (2018) working on Variscan lamprophyres from southwestern Germany and eastern France, which share similar Th/La and Sm/La to Mediterranean lamproites, attributed the



**Fig. 7.** Th/La v. Sm/La plot showing the calculated composition of partial melts ( $F = 1\text{--}30\%$ ) of a GLOSS-like subducting sediment with variable amount of residual allanite (1, 0.1 and 0.01%). The modelled ratios remain below those of lamproites and of lawsonite (Fig. 4d, Martin *et al.* 2014; Wang *et al.* 2017). Consider that the whole range of lawsonite composition extends over the plot, up to  $\text{Sm/La} = 0.9$  and  $\text{Th/La} = 4.8$  (Martin *et al.* 2014) as shown by the arrows.

genesis of the SALATHO component to residual allanite during partial melting of subducted sediments metasomatizing the sub-continental lithospheric mantle, and subsequent melting of the metasomatized mantle domains during post-collisional lithospheric extension. We have tried to model this hypothesis using the partition coefficients of allanite (Klimm *et al.* 2008), the composition of GLOSS (Plank and Langmuir 1998) and assuming different percentages of residual allanite (1, 0.1 and 0.01%) along with different degrees of partial melting ( $F = 1\text{--}30\%$ ) (Fig. 7). The results clearly show that residual allanite, owing to its  $D^{\text{La}} > D^{\text{Th}} \geq D^{\text{Sm}}$ , is liable to create a metasomatizing melt with roughly twice Th/La and Sm/La of the starting GLOSS source, but the values remain well below those observed in lamproites (Fig. 7). Also, in our model we have assumed that the budget of Th, La and Sm is controlled only by allanite, and this cannot be the case given that melts from subducted sediments show a general slight increase in Th/La and decrease in Sm/La with respect to their sources (Johnson and Plank 1999; Hermann and Rubatto 2009; Skora and Blundy 2010; Wang *et al.* 2017). In any case, allanite-saturated sediment melts are expected to have low Th/U, which is the opposite of what is observed in orogenic lamproites that are always characterized by extremely high Th/U (Fig. 4b).

The alternative model, originally postulated by Tommasini *et al.* (2011) and successively confirmed

by other studies (Lustrino *et al.* 2016; Wang *et al.* 2017, 2019; Wang and Foley 2020), involves the participation of lawsonite-bearing low-grade metamorphic rocks in controlling this peculiar feature of orogenic lamproites. Indeed, lawsonite is a major repository for Sr, Pb, U, Th and LREEs (Spandler *et al.* 2003; Usui *et al.* 2006; Martin *et al.* 2014), and a number of Th, La, Sm compositions of lawsonite (Martin *et al.* 2014; Vitale Brovarone *et al.* 2014; Wang *et al.* 2017) are reported in Figure 7. These lawsonites clearly have high Th/La and Sm/La, the latter even higher than that recorded in Mediterranean lamproites, and upon melting (Tommasini *et al.* 2011) or dehydration (Lustrino *et al.* 2016) are capable of imparting to lamproite magmas their unique trace element signature (see below). In the case of melting, in order to produce the high Th/La and Sm/La, lawsonite must have been totally consumed. The recent experimental work of Wang and Foley (2020), specifically designed to investigate the role of blue schists stored in the shallow lithosphere (2GPa), showed that upon melting lawsonite is completely removed from the residue at  $800^\circ\text{C}$ , producing melts enriched in Th/La with respect to their lawsonite-rich crustal protoliths.

Tommasini *et al.* (2011) suggested that the SALATHO signature can be ascribed to the stabilization and long-term (*c.* 300–500 Myr, see fig. 8 in Tommasini *et al.* 2011) storage of lawsonite linked to chaotic mélanges of subducted altered oceanic

crust (basalt and sediments) at relatively low grade of metamorphism. This is indicated by the high  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  values over  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  (Fig. 5b) of orogenic lamproites, requiring high time-integrated ( $^{232}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}$ ) and relatively low time-integrated ( $^{238}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ). These mélange domains experienced different storage times in each sector of the Tethyan Realm orogenic belts, in agreement with the diachronous collision of the northward drifting continental slivers from Gondwana (e.g. Hun Terrane, Variscan and Cimmerian terranes; Stampfli 2000; Stampfli and Borel 2002; Gaetani *et al.* 2003; Scotese 2004). Incidentally, the occurrence of the SALATHO component has been observed in the so-called lampyrites outcropping in the Variscan Bohemian Massif (Krmíček *et al.* 2020), and provides further support for a long storage time of these mélange domains within the subcontinental lithospheric mantle.

### *The lithospheric mantle source of Mediterranean Lamproites*

It is widely accepted that a normal four-phase peridotitic mantle cannot represent the source of lamproitic magmas, which requires the presence of an additional K-rich hydrous mineral, generally identified as phlogopite (Mitchell and Bergman 1991; Foley 1992, 1993). Accordingly, previous studies interpreted lamproitic magmas as the products of partial melting of metasomatized sub-continental refractory lithospheric mantle (e.g. Foley *et al.* 1987; Foley and Venturelli 1989; Conticelli 1998; Prelević and Foley 2007). Since the pioneering work of Foley (1992), it was suggested that large volumes of metasomatic components, required to generate the peculiar geochemical and isotopic characteristics of the mantle source of lamproite magmas, are accommodated within a vein network in the sub-continental lithospheric mantle (Foley 1992; Conticelli *et al.* 2002, 2007, 2009, 2015; Prelević and Foley 2007; Prelević *et al.* 2008; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009, 2020; Ammannati *et al.* 2016; Dallai *et al.* 2019). It was experimentally demonstrated that K-rich metasomatizing agents may react with the depleted peridotitic mantle producing phlogopite-rich veins (Sekine and Wyllie 1982; Foley 1990, 1992; Conceição and Green 2004). Other studies, mainly based on the high Ni content of high-Fo olivine crystals, have indicated that subduction-derived silica-rich melts would react with the peridotitic mantle producing orthopyroxene at the expense of olivine (Straub *et al.* 2008; Foley *et al.* 2013). Within a pyroxenitic assemblage without olivine (high  $D^{\text{Ni}}$ ), Ni will be mostly hosted in pyroxene (lower  $D^{\text{Ni}}$ ), resulting, after partial melting, in magmas with higher Ni contents, hence later crystallizing high-Ni olivine phenocrysts (Straub *et al.* 2008; Foley *et al.* 2013). The recent study of

Ammannati *et al.* (2016) showed extremely high Ni in high-Fo olivine in Italian orogenic lamproites, confirming the key role of orthopyroxene-rich domains (i.e. veins) in the mantle source of these magmas. Therefore, the presence of phlogopite–orthopyroxene domains in the lithospheric mantle seems to be required to generate lamproite-like magmas. Natural evidence of subduction-related, orthopyroxene-generating metasomatic agents, sometimes associated with the presence of phlogopite, have been observed in ultramafic xenoliths from several localities affected by orogenic metasomatism (Brandon *et al.* 1999; Grégoire *et al.* 2001; Franz *et al.* 2002), also in the Mediterranean area and surroundings (Cvetković *et al.* 2004b; Kovács *et al.* 2007), as well as in the Finero peridotite massif (Zanetti *et al.* 1999).

A particularly intriguing case is provided by the mantle xenoliths erupted within the Na-alkaline anorogenic volcanism of Tallante, which post-dates the ultrapotassic magmatism with lamproitic affinity of Murcia in southeastern Spain (e.g. Duggen *et al.* 2005). These mantle xenoliths display extreme compositional and mineralogical heterogeneities (Arai *et al.* 2003; Beccaluva *et al.* 2004; Shimizu *et al.* 2005; Rampone *et al.* 2010; Bianchini *et al.* 2011, 2015; Martelli *et al.* 2011; Bianchini and Natali 2017; Marchesi *et al.* 2017; Dallai *et al.* 2019; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2020). Many of them are anhydrous lherzolite to harzburgite reflecting mantle depletion and impregnation with various melt in anorogenic conditions (Beccaluva *et al.* 2004; Rampone *et al.* 2010; Bianchini *et al.* 2011). Other xenoliths show clear evidence of metasomatism resulting in neoformation of orthopyroxene, plagioclase, phlogopite and pargasitic amphibole, indicating a lithospheric mantle modified by hydrous, subduction-related metasomatic agents (Arai *et al.* 2003; Beccaluva *et al.* 2004).

Among this large xenolith variability, the Tallante magmas also exhumed rare composite xenoliths where peridotite is locally crosscut by felsic veins containing plagioclase and orthopyroxene  $\pm$  quartz  $\pm$  phlogopite  $\pm$  amphibole (Arai *et al.* 2003; Beccaluva *et al.* 2004; Shimizu *et al.* 2005; Bianchini *et al.* 2011; Dallai *et al.* 2019; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2020). These mineralogical associations are again consistent with the postulated lithospheric mantle source of lamproitic magmas, characterized by the reaction of the depleted mantle with crustal-derived, hydrous, silica-oversaturated melts rich in alkalis. Within the composite xenoliths of Tallante, Avanzinelli *et al.* (2020) also documented the presence of a millimetric veinlet hosting accessory minerals such as apatite, thorite/huttonite, rutile and graphite, hence producing isolated domains particularly enriched in incompatible trace elements. Overall, the compositional variability of mantle xenoliths

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erupted at Tallante testifies the presence, in a region where lamproites were produced, of an extremely heterogeneous mantle, characterized by a number of metasomatic events producing different domains, which upon melting may be capable of generating lamproites, hence providing an extraordinary window on the possible mantle sources of these extremely peculiar magmas.

The detailed study by *Avanzinelli et al. (2020)* on veined mantle xenoliths from Tallante, reported some key features that may confirm the link between these xenoliths and lamproites, especially regarding the occurrence of the SALATHO component within the metasomatized lithospheric mantle. Their data showed that the effect of metasomatism is not confined to the mineral phases of the felsic vein and the orthopyroxene-rich reaction zone (i.e. in plagioclase and orthopyroxene), but it permeated also the surrounding peridotitic mantle, as also observed in peridotite Massifs (*Woodland et al. 1996*). Indeed, the clinopyroxene (and orthopyroxene) of the peridotitic portion of the Tallante veined xenolith, which had not experienced any mineralogical modification, preserve geochemical and isotopic evidence of the metasomatic enrichment. They show anomalous incompatible trace element and ‘m-shaped’ REE pattern (*Avanzinelli et al. 2020*), being extremely enriched in middle (M)REE and Th, but depleted in LREE. The origin of such a peculiar composition has to be related to the geochemical characteristic of the metasomatic melts (see previous section) and/or in the competing role of the other phases equilibrating in the same portion of the mantle (*Avanzinelli et al. 2020*). In any case, upon partial melting such anomalous pyroxene would produce melts enriched with Th and Sm over La, hence imparting the characteristic SALATHO flavour common to all Tethyan Realm Lamproites.

In order to better define the origin of SALATHO, we calculated the hypothetical incompatible trace element composition (*Fig. 8*) of partial melts in equilibrium with clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene and plagioclase hosted in the various portions of the veined xenoliths (i.e. surrounding mantle, vein envelope, vein) reported in *Avanzinelli et al. (2020)* using a selected set of partition coefficients (*Green et al. 2000; Foley and Jenner 2004; Aigner-Torres et al. 2007; Fig. 8*). It is worth emphasizing that using different sets of partition coefficients the results shown in *Figure 8* do not change significantly.

*Figure 8* shows that melts in equilibrium with clino- and orthopyroxenes have invariably high Th/La and Sm/La reaching values (up to 10.4 and 3.6, respectively, in clinopyroxene *Fig. 8a*), as well as extreme enrichment in Th (up to almost 300 ppm, *Fig. 8b*). Melts in equilibrium with plagioclase show lower Th content and Th/La ratios, and variable but still relatively high Sm/La (up to 0.87). A

bulk composition of the partial melts deriving from such a veined mantle is extremely difficult to model. This would require assumptions on the exact knowledge of the relative proportions between the vein, the reaction zone and the surrounding peridotite involved in the melting process. In addition, lamproitic magmas are likely made up by the sum of several different melts deriving various portions of the metasomatized mantle (see previous section). For example, a significant contribution to the composition of Mediterranean lamproites must derive from melting of phlogopite-rich mantle domains (see previous discussion; *Conticelli et al. 2015; Ammannati et al. 2016*). The modelled melts in equilibrium with each single mineral (clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene and plagioclase; *Fig. 8*), however, clearly show that even a small amount of such melts may impart the characteristic high Th/La and Sm/La to the erupted lamproites. In such, the described mantle xenoliths likely represent the portion of the lithospheric mantle hosting the SALATHO component required by orogenic lamproites.

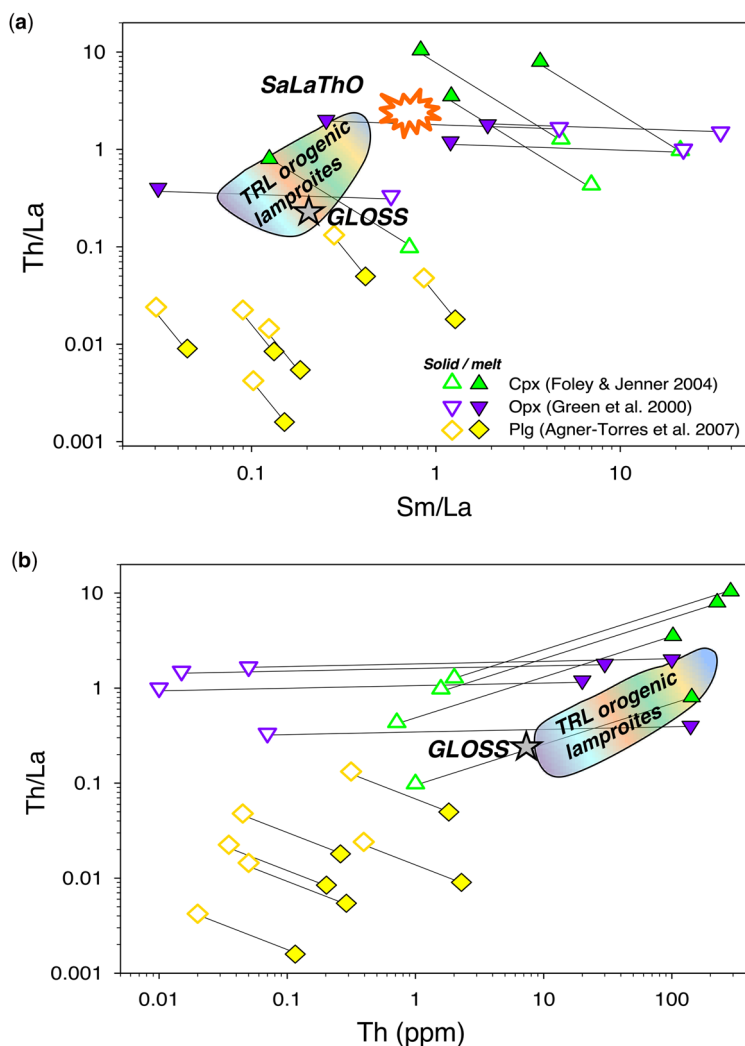
Further considerations can be done on the basis of isotopic composition. The Pb isotope composition of the aforementioned xenoliths is similar to that of Spanish lamproites, with high  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  over  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  (see *Fig. 5b*). The comparison for Sr and Nd isotope ratios is not as good, although they could be dominated by melts deriving from phlogopite-rich domains with higher  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  and lower  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ . The high  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  is also consistent with a high time integrated (*c.* 300–500 Myr) Th/U of the metasomatic melts (*Tommassini et al. 2011*). This long-term storage, however, seems to be related to the crustal component from which the melts were generated rather than to the age of the metasomatic processes, which instead appears to be rather recent. *Dallai et al. (2019)* measured oxygen isotopes in the same veined samples described above, reporting continuously decreasing  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values, from the vein, which had typically crustal values (up to 10.5), to typical mantle values in the surrounding peridotite. The authors calculated that, in order to preserve such a difference from diffusion-assisted re-equilibration, the metasomatic process (i.e. the vein formation) must have occurred <5 Myr before their entrapment in the Tallante magmas. The same is supported by the large variability in Sr isotope in the same sample, from the vein (0.7124) to the peridotite (0.7060) (*Avanzinelli et al. 2020*).

## Petrogenesis of Mediterranean lamproites and geodynamic relationships

Based on the available evidence described above we suggest that Mediterranean lamproites were generated during the late stage of plate convergence



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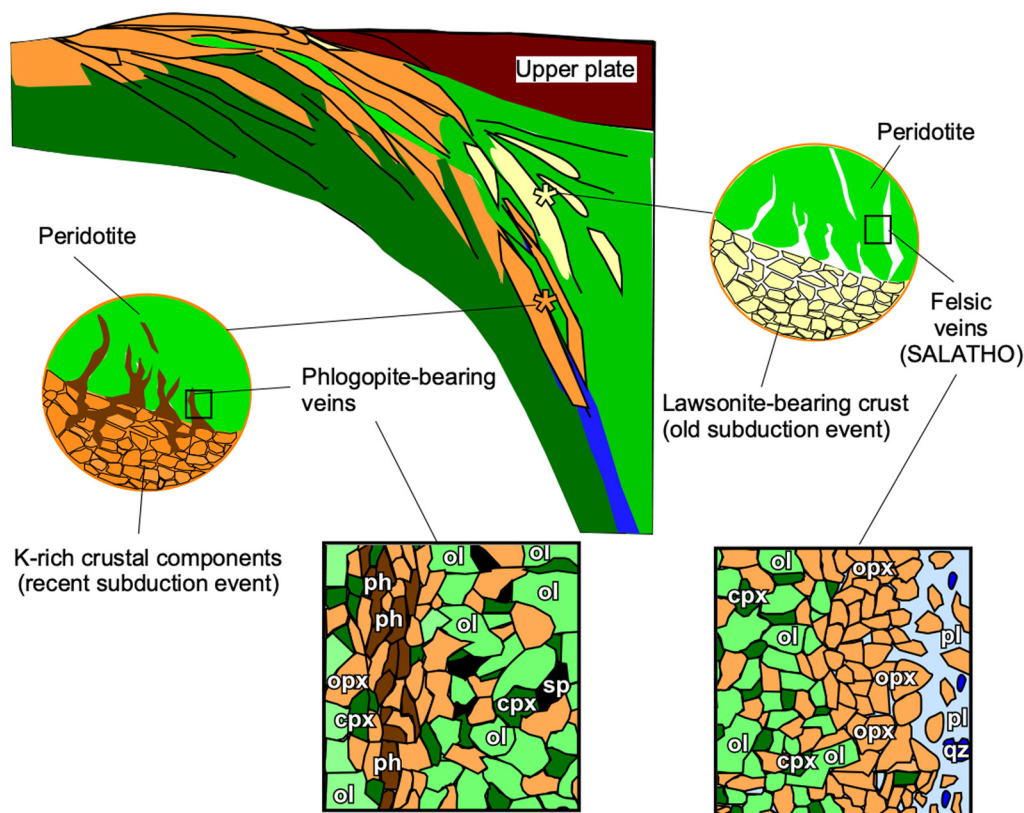
**Fig. 8.** (a) Th/La v. Sm/La and (b) Th/La v. Th (log scale) of clinopyroxene (Cpx), orthopyroxene (Opx) and plagioclase (Plg) (open symbols) from Tallante xenoliths (Avanzinelli *et al.* 2020) and melts in equilibrium with them (solid symbols). Partition coefficients calculated on lamproite rocks were used where available (i.e. Cpx). The partition coefficients used for the calculations are (1) Cpx,  $D^{La} = 0.057$ ,  $D^{Sm} = 0.328$ ,  $D^{Th} = 0.007$  (Foley and Jenner 2004); (2) Opx,  $D^{La} = 0.006$ ,  $D^{Sm} = 0.011$ ,  $D^{Th} = 0.0005$  (Green *et al.* 2000); (3) Plg,  $D^{La} = 0.065$ ,  $D^{Sm} = 0.044$ ,  $D^{Th} = 0.173$  (Aigner-Torres *et al.* 2007)); partition coefficients for Cpx were calculated directly on lamproitic rocks. TRL, Tethyan Realm Lamproites.

characterized by continental collision and inter-layering of mantle and continental slivers including low solidus crustal lithologies of different origins (Fig. 9). Similar crust-mantle mélanges are observed in massifs such as Ronda and Beni Bousera, where the exhumed fossil crust mantle boundary is characterized by mylonites and mélanges (Tubía *et al.* 2004; Platt *et al.* 2003, 2013; Bartoli *et al.* 2015). Similar cases of interlayered crust-mantle associations are common throughout and nearby the

Mediterranean region, such as in the fossil deep crust-mantle sections of the Ivrea-Verbano (Quick *et al.* 1995), the Ulten Zone (Braga and Massonne 2012) and central Calabria (Rizzo *et al.* 2001).

Lawsonite-rich crustal domains at high Th/La and Th/U hosted within the mélanges should have formed during an old events related to the diachronous collision of the northward drifting continental slivers from Gondwana in order to develop their high  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  (Tommasini *et al.* 2011).

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**Fig. 9.** Suggested schematic scenario for the genesis of Mediterranean orogenic lamproites. Subducted crustal material of different ages is represented with different colours (light yellow, lawsonite-bearing crust from old subduction event; orange, K-rich crust from recent subduction event). Round insets show the development of the two sets of metasomatic veins (i.e. SALATHO-like and phlogopite bearing) responsible for the key geochemical and isotopic features of the studied magmas. The bottom squares provide cartoons of the metasomatic reactions and mineralogy of the modified mantle. The image of the felsic SALATHO-like vein reproduces the petrography of the Tallante composite mantle xenoliths (Avanzinelli *et al.* 2020), whilst that of the phlogopite-rich veins is based on the study of Ammannati *et al.* (2016).

The most recent subduction events (e.g. the Neo-Tethys and Alpine Tethys oceanic basin) and continental collision (Alpine, Apennine, Himalayan Orogeny), brought to depth further crustal material, which underwent partial melting and metasomatized the depleted lithospheric mantle domains of the previously accreted chaotic mélange. These melts imparted the K-rich flavour and subduction signature to the lithospheric mantle, likely as phlogopite–orthopyroxene vein network (Fig. 9; Foley 1992; Melzer and Foley 2000; Ammannati *et al.* 2016).

Successively, lithosphere extension, thermal relaxation and associated mantle uplift produced during back-arc extension (Platt *et al.* 2003, 2013), determined melting of the older lawsonite-rich crustal domains, completely exhausting lawsonite at relatively low temperature (i.e. 800°C; Wang

and Foley 2020). These highly reactive SALATHO-like crustal melts segregated from their sources and reacted with the surrounding mantle domains, forming the felsic-veined mantle domains observed in the Tallante xenoliths (Dallai *et al.* 2019; Avanzinelli *et al.* 2020). Indeed, as indicated by oxygen isotopes, the formation of the felsic veins must have occurred relatively recently to prevent diffusion-assisted re-equilibration.

Proceeding with lithosphere extension and thermal relaxation, partial melting of such a heterogeneous and variable metasomatized mantle occurred, first affecting the different metasomatic veins (i.e. both phlogopite-rich and SALATHO-like), characterized by low solidus temperatures and continued progressively involving also the surrounding ambient peridotite. In this context, the geochemical and

isotopic variability of Mediterranean lamproites (and Tethyan lamproites in general) (Figs 4, 5 & 6) can be interpreted as the result of mixing of different batches of melt deriving from the various mantle domains. This process may also account for progressive dilution of the 'lamproitic' character in the less potassic members (Figs 2 & 3) (Avanzinelli *et al.* 2009; Conticelli *et al.* 2009; Mattei *et al.* 2014), along the lines of the vein-plus-wall rock melting mechanism (Foley 1992). Since the geochemical and isotopic crustal signature is not limited to the veins but permeates also the surrounding peridotite, melts deriving from different proportion of the various veins and surrounding peridotite will inherit variable levels of trace element and isotopic enrichment. Yet, some general common characteristics (e.g. high LILE/HFSE, high Th/La and Sm/La) are preserved also in higher degree melts producing the shoshonitic and calc-alkaline products.

In the proposed scenario the origin of Mediterranean lamproites occurs at rather shallow depths, likely within the spinel stability field. The mantle xenoliths erupted at Tallante, here suggested as representative of possible sources for the SALATHO component, are equilibrated at pressure (0.7–0.9 GPa; Rampone *et al.* 2010; Bianchini *et al.* 2011 and references therein) straddling the transition between plagioclase and spinel. Tuscan lamproites (Torre Alfina) erupted mantle xenoliths confined within the spinel stability field (1.5–2.2 GPa; Conticelli and Peccerillo 1990), suggesting slightly higher depths, yet never crossing the spinel garnet transition. Similar pressure ranges (0.7–2 GPa) are indicated by thermobarometric constraints based on phlogopite composition of Mediterranean lamproites (Fritschle *et al.* 2013). This is also consistent with the high silica contents of these magmas, despite their primitive composition.

The inferred shallow origin of orogenic Mediterranean lamproites represents a further distinctive characteristic that differentiates them from lamproites erupted in anorogenic settings. Anorogenic lamproites are indeed interpreted as originated at high depth (>4 GPa; Foley 1993, Edgar and Mitchell 1997, Mirnejad and Bell 2006; Jaques and Foley 2018) as also indicated by the occasional presence of diamond (McCulloch *et al.* 1983; Jaques *et al.* 1990; Lambert *et al.* 1995; Davies *et al.* 2006).

We conclude that orogenic lamproites, such as those of the Mediterranean and the Tethyan Realm in general, are rocks that characterize areas that were affected by multiple Wilson cycles, as observed in the Alpine–Himalayan Realm. They are originated at relatively shallow depth in a peridotite lithospheric mantle crosscut by several vein networks with different age and composition, but similar subduction-related origin. Late partial melting events mix

variable contributions from the veins and the host peridotite, generating the observed spectrum of orogenic magmas that appears typical of the specific geodynamic framework.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare no known conflicts of interest associated with this publication.

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**Data availability** All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article (and its supplementary information files).

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